

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 4A

USA TODAY
4 November 1985

3

WORLD

CIA-Khadafy leak to be probed

J By Johanna Neuman
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — President Reagan — responding to a *Washington Post* report that he approved a CIA covert plan to undermine Libyan leader Muammar Khadafy — Sunday ordered an investigation into leaked intelligence documents cited by the *Post*.

The *Post*, quoting intelligence sources, said Sunday the plan is designed to "disrupt, pre-empt and frustrate" Khadafy's regime and lure him into a "terrorist exploit" that would allow the military to overthrow his government.

The White House refused to comment on the accuracy of the report.

"While in no way attributing any credence to the specific allegations and conclusions, ..." said White House press aide Bill Hart, "the president is ordering an investigation of the disclosure of U.S. intelligence documents ... to determine who is responsible for such disclosure and to take appropriate action."

The *Post* described one of the documents as a top-secret

29-page CIA document. The report concluded that "no course of action short of stimulating Khadafy's fall will bring any significant and enduring change in Libyan policies."

The *Post* said a narrow majority in the House and Senate intelligence committees approved the president's decision — but noted that Senate Chairman David Durenberger, R-Minn., and Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., wrote the White House asking how the plan would avoid a federal prohibition against assassination plots.

Neither Durenberger nor Leahy was available for comment Sunday. And the president, returning from his Camp David weekend retreat, waved off questions.